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Basic Needs Ministry
-
Cleveland Township
Emergency Food
Pantry

Press Release

Basic Needs Meets Children's Needs

Summer Cuts Service Levels

Garner, NC, July 18, 2007: Garner's Basic Needs Ministry is running the largest yard sale in the area as it dropped the prices on all 28,000 clothes in its warehouse to \$1 or less to provide for the needs of local children and their families through the summer and prepare them to return to school. Wake's School Board is continuing its policy of busing and concentrating low income children in Garner, forcing rates in local schools to 50-70% of the student body receiving free and reduced lunches. There are now 7,200 needy students attending public schools within 15 miles of the Basic Needs warehouse. Normally, when their parents cannot afford clothing for the families, they pick up Basic Needs free clothing gift certificates at the school guidance office or local church. Vacations cut off this service, which provided over 12,000 sets of free clothes and saved local churches and civic organizations over \$1 million and a lot of shopping hours for their neighbors in need.

Public sales on Saturdays help pay for the cost of maintaining a local warehouse, which processes 300,000 items annually. One satisfied customer paid her dollar and walked out with a new pair of slacks with original store tags and an original price of \$179.95. Regardless how nice they would have looked on her, she was headed for eBay. The \$1 summer sale covers everything from bras to winter coats. More volunteers are needed to keep the racks stocked.

With most schools closed for the summer and no daily school lunches, many of these children also lack sufficient food, placing additional financial burdens on the local food pantries

For Immediate Release

and their volunteers. Basic Needs provides 4,000 pounds of food weekly to its township's hungry neighbors; a \$300,000 annual value.

By offering evening and weekend hours and eliminating mandatory family interviews, Basic Needs saves the family the cost of missing work and re-enforces good school attendance. Since starting with clothing in 2003, the Ministry runs a food pantry offering food to 1,200 residents, offers 10-40% off prescription drugs, and in August will open the first free public access computer and Internet training site in its area.

This all volunteer community nonprofit is in its 5th year of service and had to substantially revise its estimate of value to the community. Initially the founding members thought it would be possible to produce \$200,000 of benefits in four years, but Basic Needs produced over \$8 million. Despite this success for the community, Basic Needs has income in the \$23,000 range and warehouse costs of \$40,000 plus the food costs. It has not been meeting its operational expenses and is again running out of money to purchase food for its families. It has an excellent reputation in the region for its shopping and stewardship, usually bringing in \$25-50 worth of food for each dollar spent. The \$20,000 computer lab should be completed for \$1,000 out of Basic Needs budget, with the rest covered by grants and business donations.

Donations may be sent to the non-profit's office at Basic Needs Ministry, 1413 Kenbrook Drive, Garner, NC 27529-4447. All services and sales are provided at the warehouse, 1 block west of I-40 Exit 312 on NC HWY 42, Garner. To volunteer or find more information about its programs, go to its Internet site at <http://4042needs.org/> or call 919-661-6565.

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Sample warehouse clothing photo at:

http://4042needs.org/assets/young_kids.jpg

